

# Food Quality Protection Act/Strategic Agricultural Initiative Program

Request for Applications (RFA) for FY 2006

## OVERVIEW:

**Federal Agency Name:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1, Office of Ecosystem Protection, Chemicals Management Branch, Pesticides Toxics and Urban Programs Unit

**Funding Opportunity Title:** Food Quality Protection Act/Strategic Agricultural Initiative Grant Program: Request for Applications-FY 2006

**Funding Opportunity Number:** EPA-R1-SAI-06

**Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement for Fiscal Year 2006

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CDFA):** Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CDFA) Number 66.716: Surveys, Studies, Demonstrations, Educational Outreach, and Special Projects within the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances

**Statutory Authority:** Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA Section 20)

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/7/ch6.html>

<i>Postmark date or email/ grant.gov submission date for Receipt of Application</i>	<i>Monday, September 25, 2006 5 PM EST</i>
<i>Expected EPA Region 1 Evaluation</i>	<i>Monday October 2 , 2006</i>
<i>Expected Award Document Distribution</i>	<i>Wednesday, November 8, 2006</i>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

EPA Region 1 Pesticide Program is seeking applications from eligible organizations that will facilitate the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). The program supports efforts to reduce the exposure to toxic pesticides through the adoption of production agriculture pest management practices that transition away from the use of high-risk pesticides.

The in-field adoption by farmers of already identified potential low-risk integrated crop or pest management tools and strategies is a priority. The project or projects selected for funding will work towards achieving the adoption of reduced-risk alternatives and /or ecologically-based IPM or biologically integrated farming approaches that are economical. The project partners include but are not limited to: scientists, farmers, commodity organizations/groups, industry, and local, state and federal partners.

For this competition, the EPA Region 1 Program has approximately \$103,500 available for assistance awards under this Request for Applications (RFA).

# **I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION:**

## **Authority:**

EPA expects to award grants under the authority provided in FIFRA Section 20 which authorizes the Agency to issue research grants and cooperative agreements for research, development, monitoring, public education, training, demonstrations and studies.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) 66.716 states that the intended use of these funds is to “support Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Training Demonstrations, Educational Outreach and Special Purpose assistance relating to the protection of public health and the environment from potential risk from toxic chemicals to come.” The statutory authority for awards under this Request for Applications (RFA) is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Section 20.

## **Program Description:**

The Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI) <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/grants/aginitiative.htm> was developed as EPA's outreach program to demonstrate and facilitate the adoption of farm pest management practices that will enable growers to transition away from the use of high-risk pesticides.

The SAI encourages the development of pest management practices and products that are safer, effective and support the implementation of the [Food Quality Protection Act \(FQPA\)](#). The in-field adoption by farmers of already identified potential low-risk integrated crop or pest management tools and strategies is a priority. The program supports innovative efforts that enable growers to decrease reliance on agricultural chemicals while maintaining economical outcomes, by developing, demonstrating and/or applying reduced-risk alternatives and ecologically-based integrated approaches to pest management.

**Goals and Objectives:** The goals of the Strategic Agricultural Initiative Program are:

- Growers significantly reduce or eliminate the use of organophosphate, carbamate or other pesticides impacted by FQPA.
- Implement reduced risk alternatives and /or ecologically based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) adopted on a significant number of acres under commercial agricultural production.
- Engage/work collaboratively with scientists, farmers, commodity organizations/groups, industry, and local and state and federal partners.
- Demonstrate region specific pest management practices/technologies and integrated crop management systems to replace pesticide uses which may be canceled under FQPA.
- Use of applicable measuring tools to monitor and record the impacts of the project on the cropping system, pest management practices, human health and the environment.
- Utilize demonstration, extension, outreach and/or education on integrated or sustainable agricultural production practices in partnership with producers, commodity groups and other agricultural stakeholders by making the best use of expert field consultants, USDA research, EPA's reduced risk substitutes, and university supported technical support on alternatives and pest management practices.

Applicants must address at least two of these goals/objectives in their application.

### **FQPA/SAI Program Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan and Anticipated Outcomes/Outputs:**

In order to be successful, the application needs to demonstrate a clear linkage between the relevant goals listed in EPA's Strategic Plan (2003-2008) and the workplan's expected outcomes and outputs.

1. *Linkage to EPA Strategic Plan/GPRA Architecture.* The assistance agreements expected to be awarded under the Request for Applications (RFA) will support EPA Strategic Plan Goal 4 - Healthy Communities and Ecosystems; Objective 4.1 - Chemical, Organism and Pesticide Risk; Program/Project 92 - Field Programs. To see EPA's 2003-2008 Strategic Plan: [www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/plan.htm)
2. *Outcomes.* The awards under this Request for Applications (RFA) are expected to: 1) increase the number of growers using reduced-risk/IPM tools and techniques; 2) measure quantitative and qualitative benefits to human health, the environment, and communities; and 3) support partnerships between crop producers, EPA, other federal/state/local agencies, and other interested stakeholders to implement reduced-risk/IPM programs, disseminate project outcomes to producers and increase the scope of the FQPA/SAI program.
3. *Outputs.* The anticipated general outputs of the awards under this Request for Applications (RFA) projects include: 1) educational and outreach materials for growers; 2) conservation plans for growers that include reduced- risk pest management; 3) presentations conferences, seminars, and on-site field training; and 4) partnerships established between federal and non-federal programs to provide reduced- risk/IPM programs for crop producers.  
2 additional specific *outputs* of the awards are:
  - Acres impacted by the project-under management that include pesticide risk reduction practices. If applicable, include those acres treated with biopesticides or reduced risk pesticides and/or those pest management techniques that do not employ chemical methods.
  - Percent reduction or pound per acre reduction expected in the use of highly toxic active ingredients.

## **II. AWARD INFORMATION:**

Under this competition, the Region anticipates awarding a total of approximately \$103,500 to eligible applicants and anticipates making 1 or 2 assistance awards to eligible applicant(s). Funding and project periods can extend for no more than two years. The suggested start date for the project is January 1, 2007. Please note, based on the availability of funds and the quality of applications received, EPA reserves the right to award no grants under this Request for Applications (RFA).

## **III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:**

### **A. Eligibility Criteria:**

Assistance under this Request for Applications (RFA) is generally available to any State, U.S. territories or possession, federally recognized Indian Tribal governments, Native American Organizations, public

and private universities, hospitals, laboratories, commodity organizations, farmers groups, other public or private non-profit institutions and individuals. Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

Only 1 application per primary investigator/project coordinator may be submitted. Multiple applications from the same primary investigator/project coordinator will not be considered.

## **B. Threshold Criteria:**

To be eligible for funding consideration under this Request for Applications (RFA), applications must meet the following threshold criteria. Failure to meet any of the following criteria will result in the disqualification of the application for funding consideration. Applicants deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

- All organizations submitting applications in response to this solicitation must meet the eligibility criteria outlined above.
- Applicants must address at least two of the objectives listed in the "Goals and Objectives" in Section I.
- The project **must** have the following measures:
  1. Acres impacted by the project-under management that include pesticide risk reduction practices. If applicable, include those acres treated with biopesticides or reduced risk pesticides and/or those pest management techniques that do not employ chemical methods.
  2. Percent reduction or pound per acre reduction expected in the use of highly toxic active ingredients.
  3. Declared IPM Transition Index number from the "IPM Transition Index" located at: [http://www.aftresearch.org/sai/public/performance\\_measures.php](http://www.aftresearch.org/sai/public/performance_measures.php)
  4. Environmental Performance Measures Categories must be clearly identified by the applicant. Environmental Performance Measures Categories are: Air, Animals, Dietary, Economic, Human, Plant, Soil and Water.
  5. Projects must declare selected measures either direct or surrogate measures.

Details to determine and select project related direct and surrogate measures for each above listed Category is located at: [www.aftresearch.org/sai/public/performance](http://www.aftresearch.org/sai/public/performance)

To assist in identifying measures and outcomes, please visit: <http://www.aftresearch.org/sai> (SAI Grant Applicants-Performance Measures)

- Proposed projects must take place in one or more of the EPA Region 1 States (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont).

- All proposed project activities and costs must be eligible under the authorizing statute, FIFRA Section 20, as discussed in Section I.
- Applications must not include activities that involve basic research; however, projects may include a component for *applied on farm research*, supported by: surveys, studies, investigations, training, demonstrations and educational outreach/extension.
- Applications must substantially comply with the application submission instructions and requirements set forth in Section IV of this announcement or else they will be rejected. However, where a page limit is expressed in Section IV with respect to the application and/or parts of the application, pages in excess of the page limitation (30 double spaced pages) will not be reviewed. If a single spaced proposal is submitted, it will only be reviewed up to the equivalent of the 30 page, double spaced page limit for proposals specified in Section IV-excess will not be reviewed.
- Applications must be postmarked, received through grants.gov or via e-mail by the EPA by Monday, September 25, 2006 5 PM EST. Applications received after the published closing date will be returned to the sender without further consideration.
- Project periods are not to exceed 2 years.

## **IV. APPLICATION & SUBMISSION INFORMATION:**

### **A. Application Package:**

Please follow the instructions provided in the section below titled, "Content and Form of Application Submission." Application kits are available at <http://www.epa.gov/region1/grants/index.html> or by contacting the EPA Contact listed below. Completed applications should be submitted to:

**Andrea M. Szylvian**  
**US EPA Region 1 Pesticide Program**  
**1 Congress Street Suite 1100 CPT**  
**Boston, Massachusetts 02114**  
**Telephone: 617-918-1198**  
**[szylvian.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:szylvian.andrea@epa.gov)**

### **B. Content and Form of Application Submission:**

Project Narratives must be double spaced, typed in 12 point or larger print with minimum 1 inch horizontal and vertical margins. Pages must be numbered in order starting with the cover page and continuing through the document. Project Narratives cannot exceed 30 pages double spaced. If a single spaced proposal is submitted, it will only be reviewed up to the equivalent of 30 pages double spaced page limit for Project Narratives.

**The following forms and documents are required to be submitted under this Request for Applications (RFA) regardless of mode of submission.**

- I. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
- II. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)
- III. Project Narrative-prepared as described below.

**I. Standard Form (SF- 424), Application for Federal Assistance**

Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

**II. Standard Form (SF- 424A) – Budget Information:**

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A. If indirect costs are included, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22.

\*\*\* Please note if you are submitting your application via grants.gov, the forms will be included in the electronic application package.

**III. Project Narrative:**

The document, prepared as described below, should be readable in PDF, MS Word or Word Perfect WP6/7/8 for Windows and consolidated into a single file. The number of pages must not exceed 30 double spaced pages.

**PROJECT NARRATIVE FORMAT:**

**a. Cover Page**

Provide the following information:

Title and Date of this Funding Opportunity Announcement:

**PROJECT TITLE:**

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:**

Organization:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail address:

Fax:

**PROJECT DURATION:**

**TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST:**

**REQUEST MATCHING FUNDS:**

(Not Required)

Non-Federal Federal

First Year Funding: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Year Funding: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Funding

Request: \_\_\_\_\_

**b. Executive Summary**

The Executive Summary shall be a stand-alone document, should not exceed one page. It should contain the specifics of what is proposed and what the project will accomplish regarding measuring or movement toward achieving project goals. This summary shall identify the measurable results expected such as: agronomic impacts, pest impacts, impacts on pesticide use, environmental impacts and potential human health benefits.

**c. Table of Contents**

A one page table listing the different parts of the application and the page number on which each part begins.

**d. Narrative Workplan**

The narrative workplan should include the information below and address all the criteria in Section V.

**Part 1. Project Title:**

**Part 2. Objectives:**

A numbered list (1, 2, etc.) of concisely written project objectives - in most cases, each objective can be stated in a single sentence. Identify which of the goals/objectives from Section I are addressed by the project.

**Part 3. Justification:**

For each goal/objective listed in Part 2 above, discuss the potential outcome in terms of pesticide risk and/or pesticide use reduction, agronomic impacts, environmental and human health. If appropriate, the target pest(s) and crop(s) pesticide product(s) should be explicitly stated. This section should be numbered with a justification corresponding to each objective.

The project objectives must reflect the “*Goals and Objectives*” as outlined above.

**Part 4. Project Narrative/Workplan:**

Describe in detail how the project will be carried out.

Include main project activities, expected outcomes and deliverables. Describe how the system or approach will achieve the program goals. Describe in detail how the project will work with various partners, for example: producers, USDA Cooperative Extension Specialists, agricultural product marketing professionals, etc.

Describe in detail how the information gained from the project will be shared with the agricultural community and other stakeholders.

#### **Part 5. *Performance Measures and Expected Outcomes/Outputs:***

The project timetable must include a plan for tracking and measuring progress towards achieving the expected environmental outputs/outcomes in Section I of this Request for Applications (RFA). For example, the timetable should explain what will be accomplished under each of the objectives during the project, the individuals responsible for the activity, and when completion of each objective is anticipated.

Also, identify how you will evaluate the success of the program in terms of measurable environmental results. How and with what measures will humans or ecosystems be better protected as a result of the program.

The project **must** have the following measures:

- Acres impacted by the project-under management that include pesticide risk reduction practices. If applicable, include those acres treated with biopesticides or reduced risk pesticides and/or those pest management techniques that do not employ chemical methods.
- Percent reduction or pound per acre reduction expected in the use of highly toxic active ingredients.
- Declared IPM Transition Index number from the “IPM Transition Index” located at: [http://www.aftresearch.org/sai/public/performance\\_measures.php](http://www.aftresearch.org/sai/public/performance_measures.php)
- Environmental Performance Measures Categories must be clearly identified by the applicant.

Environmental Performance Measures Categories are: Air, Animals, Dietary, Economic, Human, Plant, Soil and Water

- Projects must declare the selected measures either direct or surrogate measures.

Details to determine and select project related direct and surrogate measures for each above listed Category is located at: [www.aftresearch.org/sai/public/performance](http://www.aftresearch.org/sai/public/performance)

To assist in identifying measures and outcomes, please visit: <http://www.aftresearch.org/sai> (SAI Grant Applicants-Performance Measures)

**Part 6. Environmental Results Past Performance:** Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last 2 years ( no more than 3, and preferably EPA agreements), and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating

applicants under this factor in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available environmental results past performance information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for this factor under Section V.

**Part 7. Programmatic Capability:** Submit a list of federally funded assistance agreements similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last two years (no more than 5, and preferably EPA agreements) and describe whether, and how, you were able to successfully complete and manage those agreements and your history of meeting the reporting requirements under those agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In evaluating applicants under these factors in Section V, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available past performance or reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors under Section V.

Provide information on your experience in the field of the proposed activity and staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, resources or the ability to obtain them and the infrastructure to successfully achieve the goals of the project.

**Part 8. Major Participants:** List all participating farmers/ranchers, farm/ranch organizations, researchers, educators, and conservationists and others having a role in the project. Provide name, organizational affiliation/occupation (such as farmer) and a description of the role each will play in the project. A brief resume must be submitted for each major researcher or other educator.

**Part 9. Project Budget:** Provide a budget matrix using the blank matrix below. Identify how the requested funds are to be used and also identify how other funding will be used in this project. Please include an indirect cost rate if applicable.

**Project Budget:**

*Project Period: From:*

*To:*

<i>Budget Category</i>	<i>Grant Funding</i>	<i>Other Funding</i>	<i>Total Funding</i>
<i>Personnel</i>			
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>			
<i>Travel</i>			
<i>Equipment</i>			
<i>Supplies</i>			
<i>Contractual</i>			
<i>Indirect Cost</i>			

<i>Other (detail):</i>			
<i>Total</i>			

### C. Other Submission Information:

**Confidential Business Information (CBI):** In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application package as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications, or parts thereof, they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2).

**DUNS Requirement:** All applicants applying for funding, including renewal funding must have a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The DUNS number must be included in the data entry field labeled: “Organizational Duns” on the Form SF 424. Instructions on obtaining a DUNS number can be found at: <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted>. A DUNS number can also be obtained by calling: 1-866-705-5711.

**Grants.gov:** Applicants applying through Grants.gov will find the instructions for doing so listed in Section IV D. Submission.

**Commitment Letters:** Letters of Commitment from all partners collaborating on projects must be submitted with the full application package, not sent separately. Letters must be submitted on letterhead (if applicable), signed by the project partner(s), and include the partner’s telephone number and address. The commitment letters should be addressed to the applicant and be submitted as part of the full application package as described below. Commitment letters sent directly to EPA New England will not be accepted. Commitment letters must describe the role of the project partner(s) in the project. Applications for projects that have listed partners but do not include commitment letters from every listed project partner may face a reduction in score during the evaluation process. Please do not send letters of general support or others not directly involved in the project; they will not be used in the evaluation and review process.

**Intergovernmental Review:** Note that final applications will be subject to review under Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. If your application is selected for funding, further information will be provided.

**Pre-Application Assistance and Communication:** In accordance with EPA's Competition Policy of January 11, 2005 (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA staff will not meet with individual applicants to discuss applications or provide advice to applicants on how to respond to ranking criteria. Applicants are responsible for the contents of their proposals and applications. Consistent with Agency policy, applicants may be contacted to clarify application details, or negotiate a modified work plan or budget.

### D. Submission:

Please note applicants may choose to apply one of three ways: *hard copy submission, e mail submission to EPA*, or via *grants.gov*.

Applications must be postmarked, submitted to EPA via e-mail, or submitted via Grants.gov no later than:  
***Monday September 25, 2006 5 PM EST***

Please select only 1 option for submitting your application.

***OPTION 1: DIRECTIONS FOR HARD COPY SUBMISSION/E MAIL SUBMISSION TO EPA***

One hard copy, and one copy on a 3.5" disk, "IBM" compatible, readable in MS Word or Word Perfect WP6/7/8 for Windows, or on a CD ROM is required.

For completed applications submitted via e mail, the address is: **szylvian.andrea@epa.gov**.

Disks will be checked for computer viruses; disks containing proposals submitted with viruses will be disqualified.

Hard copy applications should be sent to:

**Andrea M. Szylvian  
US EPA Region 1  
Pesticide Program  
1 Congress Str Suite 1100 Mail Code: CPT  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114**

***OPTION 2: DIRECTIONS FOR ELECTONIC SUBMSSION via WWW. GRANTS.GOV:***

The electronic submission of your application package must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and is authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on "Get Registered," on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

To begin the application process for this grant program, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on "Apply for Grants" tab on the left side of the page. Then click on "Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions" to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package ([https://apply.grants.gov/forms\\_apps\\_idx.html](https://apply.grants.gov/forms_apps_idx.html)). To download the PureEdge viewer click on the "PureEdge Viewer" link. Once you have downloaded the viewer, you may retrieve the application package by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, EPA-R1-SAI-06, or the CFDA number 66.716 in the appropriate field. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button "How To Apply" at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the "Find Grant Opportunities" button on the left side of the page and then go to Search Opportunities/Browse by Agency and go to EPA opportunities).

Application Submission Date: The applicant's AOR must submit the completed application package described below and in Section IV of the request for Applications (RFA) electronically through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) no later than Monday, September 25, 2006 5 PM EST.

Application Package Materials

The following forms and documents are required to be submitted under this announcement:

**I. Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)**

**II. Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)**

**III. Project Narrative-prepared as described in Section IV.B of the announcement.**

**I. Standard Form (SF- 424), Application for Federal Assistance**

Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

Please note that the organizational Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be included on the SF-424. Organizations may obtain a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711.

**II. Standard Form (SF- 424A) – Budget Information:**

Complete the form. There are no attachments.

The total amount of federal funding requested for the project period should be shown on line 5(e) and on line 6(k) of SF-424A. If indirect costs are included, the amount of indirect costs should be entered on line 6(j). The indirect cost rate (i.e., a percentage), the base (e.g., personnel costs and fringe benefits), and the amount should also be indicated on line 22.

**III. Project Narrative :**

The document, prepared as described in Section IV.B of the Request for Applications (RFA), should be readable in PDF, MS Word or Word Perfect WP6/7/8 for Windows and consolidated into a single file.

**Application Preparation and Submission Instructions**

**Documents I through III** above should appear in the “Mandatory Documents” box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page.

For documents I and II, click on the appropriate form and then click “Open Form” below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click “Save.” When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, “Move Form to Submission List.” This action will move the document over to the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

For document III, you will need to attach electronic files. Prepare your project narrative as described above in Section IV.B of the announcement and save the document to your computer as an MS Word, PDF or WordPerfect file. When you are ready to attach it to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach your proposal (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside “Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename;” the filename should be no more than 40 characters long. If there other attachments that you would like to submit to accompany your proposal, you may click “Add Optional Project Narrative File” and proceed as before. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” When you return to the “Grant Application Package” page, select the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” and click “Move Form to

Submission List.” The form should now appear in the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the “Completed Documents for Submission” boxes, click the “Save” button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary. Please use the following format when saving your file: “Applicant Name – FY06 – Assoc Prog Supp – 1st Submission” or “Applicant Name – FY 06 Assoc Prog Supp – Back-up Submission.” If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to “Applicant Name – FY06 Assoc Prog Supp – 2nd Submission.”

Once your application package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application package through Grants.gov.

In the “Application Filing Name” box, your AOR should enter your organization’s name (abbreviate where possible), the fiscal year (e.g., FY06), and the grant category (e.g., Assoc Prog Supp). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the application package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or email at: <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>.

Application packages submitted thru grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically.

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (*not from* grants.gov) within 30 days of the application deadline, please contact Andrea Szylvian. Failure to do so may result in your application not being reviewed.

## **V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION:**

### **Criteria: Total Points: 100**

Applications that pass the threshold eligibility review in Section III will be evaluated using the criteria below. Applications may receive up to **100 points**.

#### **1) Qualifications, Experience and Past Performance (14 points):**

The applicants experience in the field of the proposed activity and its staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, resources or the ability to obtain them, and infrastructure to successfully achieve the goals of the project. (8 points)

The applicant's history of meeting reporting requirements on federally funded agreements performed within the last two years similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project and submitting acceptable final technical reports under these agreements. (2 points)

The applicants past performance in successfully completing and managing federally funded agreements performed within the last two years that are similar in size and scope and relevance to the proposed project. (4 points)

In evaluating applicants past performance and reporting history, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). If you do not have any relevant or available reporting information, please indicate this in the proposal and you will receive a neutral score for these factors.

## **2) Environmental Results Past Performance (5 points):**

Applicants will be scored based on the extent and quality to which they adequately documented and/or reported on their progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last two years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented and/or reported why not. Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance reporting history will receive a neutral score for this factor.

## **3) Project description and justification: (Total of 30 points)** Applications will be scored on the following components:

- a.** Consistency of applicant's proposed project with the risk reduction goals of the FQPA/Strategic Agricultural Initiative and whether the project demonstrates and facilitates the adoption of pest management decisions and practices that provide growers with "a reasonable transition" away from the highest risk pesticides. In addition, whether the project implements reduced use or reduced risk control techniques and products, or demonstrates the potential for implementation of project results will be evaluated. (5 points)
- b.** Likelihood that the project can be replicated in other areas by other agricultural organizations to their benefit (5 points).
- c.** Whether it addresses a significant geographically/regional specific or widespread environmental concern (5 points).

- d. The extent and quality to which it addresses the sociological or economic forces that support adoption, or those impediments that limit adoption of environmentally sensitive production systems (5 points).
- e. The extent and quality to which it demonstrates potential for long-term benefits (5 points).
- f. The extent and quality to which it addresses multiple-components of the agro-ecosystem such as soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resources (5 points).

**Project Strategy: (12 points)** Applications will be scored based on the extent and quality to which they include a well-conceived strategy to achieve the project goals and objectives and a reasonable schedule for the execution of the tasks associated with each goal.

**Measurement of Environmental Results: (Total of 20 points)** Applications will be scored on the following components:

- a. Progress Measures (10 points). The extent to which the proposed project contains clear measures of success for each major task or product, and provides a description of the format in which these measurements will be reported as well as a plan for tracking project progress towards achieving these identified measures.
- b. Environmental Performance Measures (10 points): These measures can be either “direct” or “surrogate” measures. Direct measures identify actual environmental changes occurring with the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. In contrast, surrogate measures identify changes in strategies or behavior that should lead to environmental changes.

The project should address two or more, but is not limited to, the following measures:

- 1) Changes in behavior of growers toward the use of lower-risk practices.
- 2) Reductions in number of detections of fruits and/or vegetables with tolerance violations, particularly organophosphates.
- 3) Comparison of the levels of residues on fruit and/or vegetables from conventional vs. reduced-risk pesticide practices.
- 4) Acres under management that include pesticide risk reduction practices. Acres treated with biopesticides or reduced risk pesticides.
- 5) Reduction of mortality to non-target aquatic and terrestrial organisms caused by pesticides.
- 6) Populations of beneficial organisms in fields and adjacent habitat.
- 7) Percent reduction or pound per acre reduction expected in the use of conventional pesticides.

Other examples of performance measures may be found in the SAI Toolbox, located at <http://www.aftresearch.org/sai/> (SAI Grant Applicants, Performance Measures.) The project should have two of either direct or surrogate measures.

**Innovation: (5 points)** Applications will be scored based on the extent and quality to which the proposed project provides innovative efforts that enable growers to decrease reliance on agricultural chemicals while maintaining economical outcomes, by developing, demonstrating and/or applying reduced-risk alternatives and ecologically-based integrated approaches to pest management.

**Partnerships: (4 points)** Applications will be scored based on the extent to which the project makes effective use of partnerships and the involvement of local agricultural stakeholders, builds upon existing efforts, or leverages other significant activities or institutional efforts. Partners must provide a Commitment Letter(s) from an official within the organization, specifying and confirming their specific contributions to the project.

**Outreach: (5 points)** Applications will be scored based on the extent and quality to which the project supports innovative agricultural extension such as farmer-to-farmer education or farmer-scientist interaction, outreach and technology transfer.

**Budget: (5 points)** Applications will be scored based on the adequacy of the budget information provided, and whether the budget breakout is reasonable and acceptable, and demonstrates effective and judicious use of Federal funds.

## **REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS:**

A panel comprised of EPA Region 1 staff will evaluate each eligible application based upon the criteria outlined in this Request for Applications (RFA). The decision for award will be based on the total number of points an application receives as described in the Application Review Information in Section V of this Request for Application (RFA).

The applicant organizations whose application (s) is/are selected for award will be notified electronically on or around Wednesday, October 4, 2006. The applicants not selected will be also notified electronically, consistent with the Agency's Disputes Procedures. (Note that applications will be subject to review under Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.)

Awards involving the collection of environmental data will be subject to the requirements of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and will require coordination with the EPA Region 1 QAPP Office located at the Region 1 Laboratory, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

## **VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:**

### **Award Notices:**

Successful applicants whose final applications have been selected and approved can expect to receive an award document. Please note that only a duly authorized grant officer can bind the government following approval of your final application. The award will not be official and final until a notice of award approval is issued by the EPA award official and affirmed by your organization.

As the assistance agreement is a legal document, an authorized representative of your organization must indicate acceptance by signing and returning the appropriate copies to the EPA Region 1 Grants Office. Specific instructions will be provided with the award document. The mailing address for the Region 1 Grant Office is:

**EPA Region 1 Grants Management Office (MGM)  
Office of Administration and Resource Management  
1 Congress Street Suite 1100  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114**

**Dispute Resolution:**

Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630 (January 26, 2005) which can be found at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.htm>.

Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting:

**Andrea M. Szylvian  
US EPA Region 1 Pesticide program  
1 Congress Street Suite 1100 CPT  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114  
Telephone: 617-918-1198  
[szylvian.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:szylvian.andrea@epa.gov)**

**Administration and National Policy Requirements:**

Award recipients must comply with all requirements set forth in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR), Part 31 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments) and 40 CFR, Part 30 (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-Profit Organizations), as applicable.

Non-profit applicants that are recommended for funding will be subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Sections 8.b, 8.c and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8: 'EPA Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards'. Non-profit applicants that qualify for funding under this announcement may be required to fill out and submit to the Grants Management Office, with supporting documents, the Administrative Capability Form contained in Appendix A of EPA Order 5700.8: 'EPA Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards' [http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700\\_8.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf).

**Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP):** For proposed work plans that would collect environmental data, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is not required at the time of submittal but will be required before the project commences.

**Funding Restrictions:** Regulations governing these assistance agreements are found at: 40 CFR Part 30 for institutions of higher education, colleges and universities, and non profit organizations; 40 CFR Part 31 for States, federally recognized Indian Tribes and local governments; 40 CFR Part 32, governing government wide debarment and suspension; and, 40 CFR Part 34 regarding restrictions on lobbying. All costs incurred under this program must be allowable under the applicable OMB Cost Circulars: A-87

(States and local governments); A-122 (non profit organizations); or A-21 (universities). Copies of these circulars may be found at: <http://whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars>.

In accordance with EPA policy, and the OMB circulars, as appropriate, any recipient of funding must agree not to use assistance funds for lobbying, fund raising, or political activities(e.g. lobbying members of Congress or lobbying for other Federal grants, cooperative agreements or contracts) See 40 CFR Part 34.

Please refer to the applicable cost principles in the Office of Management and Budget Circulars; e.g.

**OMB Circular A-21, Educational Institutions (8/8/00)**

**OMB Circular A-87, State and Local Governments (5/4/95, amended 8/29/97)**

**OMB Circular A-122, Non-Profit Organizations (5/19/98)**

These circulars can be viewed at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/>

Award will not allow for the reimbursement of pre-award costs. Indirect cost rates will not increase the award funding amount.

### **Reporting:**

#### **Quarterly Progress Reports:**

Written reports describing tasks accomplished, results achieved to date including any problems encountered and how problems were overcome, and a summary of funds expended will be required on a quarterly basis, as stated in 40CFR§31.40 and 40CFR§30.51. Reports should be submitted electronically if possible.

A format and timetable for the quarterly report will be sent electronically to the grantee after the award has been made.

#### **Final Reports:**

Are required at the completion of the project, as stated in 40CFR§31.40 and 40CFR§30.51. The report will include copies of any agreed-upon work-product(s) resulting from the project, and copies of materials generated in connection with project activities (e.g., workshop announcements, workshop sign in sheets, newspaper/newsletter announcements, articles or releases, press packets, pamphlets, etc.). Any additional requirements will be stated in the Special Conditions of the Award document.

#### **Financial Status Reports (FSRs):**

Are required on an annual basis, as stated in 40CFR§30.52 and 40CFR§31.41, as applicable. A Final FSR is required at the completion of the project.

## **VII. Agency Contact:**

**Andrea M. Szylvian  
EPA Region 1  
Pesticide Program  
1 Congress Str. Suite 1100**

**Boston, Massachusetts 02114**  
**Telephone: (617) 918-1198**  
**szylvian.andrea@epa.gov**